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November 9, 1998 AESHITA MUKHERJEE  
B.M. PARASHARYA  
*AINP on Agricultural Ornithology,  
Gujarat Agricultural University,  
Anand Campus, Anand 388 110,  
Gujarat, India.*

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8. PALLAS'S FISHING EAGLE *HALIAEETUS LEUCORYPHUS* (PALLAS)  
PIRATES FISH FROM AN OTTER *LUTRA LUTRA* (LINN.)

I observed four common otters (*Lutra lutra*) on boulders in the middle of the River Manas. The otters were fishing; they would come out of the water with the fish and feed while sitting on the boulder. A Pallas's fishing eagle was noticed circling above the otters, repeatedly trying to snatch the fish. It made two or three futile attempts by diving at the otter. After a while, the bird made another attempt. This time, the otter was frightened and dropped the fish, which was neatly picked up by the eagle in one swoop. The Pallas's fishing eagle is regularly known to pirate fish from other fish eating birds, or smaller eagles, but very few have been recorded robbing otters or other mammals

(Prakash 1989).

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October 8, 1998 BIBHUTI PRASAD LAHKAR  
*c/o Niramoy Pharmacy  
Near Ganesh Mandir, Ganeshguri Tinali,  
Dispur, Guwahati 781 006,  
Assam, India.*

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9. GROUP SIZE AND VIGILANCE IN INDIAN PEAFOWL  
*PAVO CRISTATUS* (LINN.), FAMILY: PHASIANIDAE

Flocking in birds is considered to be an adaptive social strategy against danger, and the evolution of gregariousness is an effective solution to the problem of the individual's vigilance load (Dimond and Lazarus 1974). Birds feeding in large flocks are safer (in terms of number of birds alert at any moment) and have more time to feed (in terms of the proportion of its time that an individual spends alert). It is known that the time budget of a species is related